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REPORT NOVEL SHOT IS PROBED

Allegedly Wounded by Sniper Fusillade

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Metropolitan Nashville police said Sunday they were investigating a report that Gordon Novel, a figure in New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination, was wounded by sniper fire earlier in the day.

Police said they were investigating the report by Charles F. Walker, president of station WKDA. They confirmed, however, that five shots had been fired at a WKDA news wagon in which Novel was allegedly sitting.

Novel was in Nashville at the request of the radio station, Walker said, and had agreed to disclose information that "would blow the New Orleans investigation wide open."

The station official said the shooting occured as Novel and WKDA news director Gary Edwards were preparing to leave for Columbus, Ohio, where Novel is awaiting extradition proceedings to Louisiana. The former nightclub operator has been subpoenaed as a material witness by Garrison.

Police estimated that at least five shots had been fired at a WKDA news wagon from behind a hedge in front of Edwards' apartment.

Walker said Novel and Edwards left Nashville immediately after the shooting and are now "somewhere between here and Washington, D.C." He told police he learned of the incident when Edwards telephoned him from Bowling Green, Ky.